



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

REPORT OF NAGAR'S ACTIVITIES (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019)

The NAGAR report for the financial year **April 01, 2018 – March 31, 2019** comprises, as always, its own work and the work it has done in affiliation with others.

1. Hawker matter:

A. NAGAR – official committee member of TVC (Zone-I)

NAGAR has always been in the forefront of the Street Vendor issue since 1998. We filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court in 1998 (1722 of 1998) with a prayer that the Court direct the MCGM to implement the 1985 Supreme Court Order which had laid down guidelines to allocate vending and non-vending zones in Greater Mumbai. We continued to be in the Courts (both High Court and the Supreme Court) till 2013 when the Supreme Court gave the final order in this matter.

The Central Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Vending) Act was enacted in 2014, and the Government of Maharashtra formulated the Street Vending Rules in 2016 and Scheme in 2017. It was mandated that Town Vending Committees be formed by all local authorities. Hence the MCGM formed one Central TVC (CTVC) and 7 Zonal TVCs (ZTVC) for the 7 Municipal Zones in Mumbai. The first meeting of the CTVC was held on May 19, 2018.

NAGAR was officially nominated as an NGO member of the TVC (Zone-I) which comprises A, B, C, D and E wards. Our Trustee, Ms. Nayana Kathpalia represents NAGAR at the meetings. Till date, NAGAR has actively participated in all the TVC (Zone-I) meetings and contributed constructively in the process for demarcating street vending zones as per the guidelines laid down by the MCGM. So far, two meetings of the Central TVC and four meetings of the TVC (Zone-I) have been held.

Some of the highlights of the meetings held & site visits conducted till date are as follows:

- i. Listing of the restricted hawking areas required that the definitions of hospitals, educational institutions, places of worship and markets must be clearly stated.
NAGAR had submitted its suggestions & objections to Ms. Nidhi Choudhari, Dy Municipal Commissioner (Removal of Encroachments) in response to the notification regarding restricted hawking at schools, religious places, municipal markets and hospitals. NAGAR wrote three letters to the Dy Municipal Commissioner (Zone-I) & the Member Secretary, TVC (Zone-I) stating that a) the definitions and criteria for preparing the lists are not specified; b) the lists are not comprehensive, leaving out many prominent hospitals, educational institutes (only schools were listed) and places of worship in Zone-I (enlisting the places left out of the proposed lists) and; c) the food safety and hygiene need to be taken care of, besides other general observations.
- ii. The TVC members were taken on site to check out the roads to be proposed as Hawking Zones in the 5 wards. The members gave their suggestions and objection on the spot which were recorded by the officials accompanying them. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, representing NAGAR, gave her suggestions & recorded her objections, in keeping with the guidelines discussed at the TVC (Zone-I) meeting & the Street Vendors' Act, 2014.
- iii. The proposed roads for Hawking Zones in the 5 wards visited during the site visits were discussed and objections for the same were recorded at the subsequent meeting. The DMC (Zone-I) directed the ward officers to review the lists for corrections and additions of hospitals, municipal markets, educational institutions and places of worship. Also, the DMC (Zone-I) assured the members that the lists will be reviewed at the subsequent meeting and then finalized.
- iv. In the fourth meeting of TVC (Zone-I), held on February 01, 2019, a ward-wise list for eligible vendors in Zone-1 was finalised. The said zone will have 3236 hawkers.

Being a mutually cooperative process, the officials have always shared the minutes of the meetings held till date. However, when there have been discrepancies in the

minutes circulated by the municipal office, NAGAR has written to the DMC (Zone-I) for the requisite amendments in the same.

B. RTI applications filed & Appeal

In October 11, 2018 the MCGM had filed an affidavit stating they would raise a special police force for removal of illegal hawkers and demolish unauthorized structures. NAGAR sought information on “**MCGM’s plan for special police force for removal of illegal hawkers and demolish unauthorized structures**” from the Urban Development Department, Home Department, Govt. of Maharashtra; Commissioner of Police, Mumbai and Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Removal of Encroachments), MCGM. In response, NAGAR received information from the F – North Ward office about the ‘Census Survey of Hawkers on BMC Lands’. Also, information was provided by the Office of the Commissioner of Police by the Dept. of Law & Order. This comprised directives from the MCGM to create a special task force to regulate street vending. **However, upon further enquiry it was found that no such police force has been commissioned in practice due to lack of funds.**

NAGAR sought information from the office of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM & the Urban Development Department (UDD), Govt. of Maharashtra regarding the definition of hospitals, educational institutions & places of worships. In response the UDD stated that no such definition has been formulated by the Govt. of Maharashtra and it is the MCGM’s legal department that can provide more information on this. However, the MCGM responded saying that there are no such definitions. **Hence, NAGAR realised that the definitions used by the MCGM authorities were provisional on which a very substantial Act was being implemented by demarcating the hawking zones! We raised objections to the same.**

C. Meetings with citizen groups

Members from all the 7 Zonal TVCs and the 2 Central TVC members met to discuss the issues faced by them while functioning as Zonal TVC members. This was after everyone realised that matters were not going well in some Zones. The members

raised concerns regarding irregular meetings held at the Zonal level, the guidelines determining hawking & non hawking zones not being circulated, pitches being marked on the footpaths without the approval of the concerned Zonal TVCs and minutes of the meeting not shared with the members of the respective committees. It was suggested and agreed upon by the members at this meeting that the Zonal TVC members must draft letters stating their concerns faced at the Zonal level addressed to the concerned Zonal TVC Chairpersons. A copy of the same be sent by email to NAGAR. It was also decided that NAGAR would compile all these letters and send it to the Central TVC members, Ms. Vidya Vaidya & Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma who will raise the issues at the Central TVC meetings. In future, if need be a meeting can be held with the Municipal Commissioner to voice our concerns. Also, a meeting can be held with the Principal Secretary, Urban Development & Principal Secretary, Law & Judiciary to voice our concerns.

NAGAR received letters from some of the Zonal TVC members, compiled & forwarded the same to the Central TVC members as well as to Mr. Balamwar, DMC (Spl) who is currently in charge of the Licence department & Elections.

A follow-up meeting of the members from all the 7 Zonal TVCs and the 2 Central TVC members was held. The members gave updates about the progress of individual TVCs, and discussion ensued over the requirements expected of each TVC. These included – Authorities within the TVC should clarify the guidelines being followed for proposal of hawking pitches; Clearer definitions for educational institutes, hospitals, religious places and municipal markets for which restricted hawking has been proposed; All TVC members must be clear on the agenda for regulation of street vendors; All TVC members should take down minutes of each TVC meeting as well.

A third meeting of the members from all the 7 Zonal TVCs and the Central TVC was held to discuss briefly the issues & concerns faced at the Zonal level. It was decided that NAGAR will compile together all the documents & correspondence received by the zonal committee members and communicated by them to the authorities for ready reference at its office.

Hence, NAGAR became the nodal point of coordination for the citizens to decide on a strategy and unite in action to respond on the matters concerning Town Vending Committee and its agenda from time to time. This resulted in unified efforts to submit resolute suggestions & objections and solidarity among citizen groups to regulate hawking, thereby making citizens' participation effective at the TVC meetings.

2. Public Open Spaces:

A. Maharashtra Nature Park (Mahim Nature Park)

It was proposed that the Maharashtra Nature Park (MNP) be included in the Sector-5 of Dharavi Redevelopment Proposal. The proposed inclusion will allow for incorporation of a public open space admeasuring 41 acres within the proposed layout of Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP). However, its location being at one side of the layout raised concerns about an eventual compromise of public open spaces throughout the layout. **NAGAR strongly objected to it and put on record that MNP must be de-linked from all potential development ventures and remain as a stand-alone entity unconditionally.** Following the publication of the notification, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, as per article published in The Indian Express, dated 23.03.2018, assured the citizens of Mumbai that Mahim Nature Park will be retained as a natural area, and no construction will be permitted on it.

The proposed inclusion would have led to addition in the FSI for the buildings of DRP. The allowable FSI for this project being 4, it was evident that a further increase would have led to an environmental disaster and the infrastructural pressure, inclusive of the services for sewage and water supply would not be able to support such a drastic increment, leading to a deteriorating quality of life of the inhabitants. With a river flowing nearby, it would certainly be a dreadful invitation to flooding as well. Therefore, **NAGAR urged** to Mr. SVR Srinivas, CEO, Dharavi Redevelopment Project, SRA **to withdraw the notification** immediately in the best interest of the city and its citizens.

NAGAR organized a meeting with activists and organisations (BEAG, AGNI, APLI Mumbai, UDRI and Zoru Bhathena) to discuss further action for protection of MNP. **NAGAR also filed RTI applications** at various concerned authorities (Dharavi Redevelopment Project Office, MHADA, SRA, MCGM, MMRDA, UDD and Forest and Revenue Department) to seek all relevant information about MNP – Ownership, Status, Proposals, etc.), to which, response has been given by MMRDA and DRP, MHADA – regarding ownership and the notification to include the previously excluded MNP in the DRP.

The information received from MMRDA comprised a GR dated March 16, 1991 stating the Mahim Nature Park is a protected forest. Also, details regarding the land transfer of MNP, along with the relevant survey plan, was given by MMRDA. The officer in-charge verbally spoke of the proposal MMRDA had conceived in association with Observer Research Foundation, and the architectural competition involved in the process. But as the proposal has been on hold and not being officially confirmed, information about the same could not be shared under RTI.

The RTI applications filed at different authorities were redirected to DRP, which is a separate cell under Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and housed at the MHADA building. DRP responded to all the RTI applications – one that was filed to it, along with the redirected applications, and provided the documents of correspondence between various concerned authorities regarding Mahim Nature Park, prior to and after the publication of the notification by DRP. Also, the suggestions and objections submitted by various organizations and individuals were procured from the DRP Office.

Hence, the information acquired and the citizens' collective efforts resulted in excluding the MNP from the DRP. It was a well-informed and coordinated effort by the citizens to save this green lung of the city which was being viewed as a real estate opportunity.

B. Evaluation of the Ecosystem Services

NAGAR explored the possibility of a project for evaluation of the ecosystem services provided by the public open spaces within the city. The idea was to evaluate public open spaces in economic terms, to stress upon their importance and to bring this awareness to the public as well as the concerned government authorities, for the protection of public open spaces. For this, NAGAR approached Wildlife & We Foundation, which is currently working on a similar project based in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. **This would enable in protecting and restoring the public open spaces for the intrinsic value and benefits they provide to the ecosystem – maintaining the ambient air quality, permeability of ground, encouraging healthy lifestyles and so on.**

C. RTI applications filed & Appeal and Letter to Authorities

NAGAR sought information via RTI from the office of the Assistant Municipal Commissioner, A ward regarding permission or approval given for putting any material including tar / concretization at Azad maidan. The application was redirected by the AMC and responded to by the Director of Sports and Youth, Government of Maharashtra. Upon visiting his office, it was informed that the referred work being done at Azad Maidan has been conducted by the Mumbai Police. However, the Director of Sports and Youth has questioned the Mumbai Police regarding their authority to do the same and have stated the same information on record.

NAGAR sought information from the office of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM for purchase notice for private plots in Greater Mumbai with land reservations for public open spaces in DP 1991 & 2034. The response received stated that the information sought is voluminous and MCGM is currently in process of preparing the information to be given under this RTI. NAGAR met with the officer-in-charge and is expecting a ward-wise tabulated list, with details of all such plots.

As a vigilant organisation to protect the public open spaces in Greater Mumbai, NAGAR took note of an encroachment on a designated public garden/park located at Powai. To take an informed action, NAGAR first sought all information from the Hydraulics Department, MCGM related to the renewal of lease on the Powai public

open space (as quoted in a news report published in the Mumbai Mirror dated 29.01.2019). The news report states that the said four-acre plot next to Powai Lake, reserved for a public garden, has been given to Raymond Ltd for a rent of just Rs. 11 lakh a year. It houses a private picnic cottage. The information received from the Hydraulics Department, MCGM states “as per the RDDP 2034, the land bearing CTS No. 77 & 78 (the said plot) is affected by the designation of DOS 1.5 (Garden / Park).” Hence, it is evidently clear that the said public open space is a public garden/park and cannot be encroached upon by private entities in any way. It is the responsibility of the MCGM, who own the public open spaces in the name of people at large, as trustees, to maintain them and protect them against any kind of encroachment. NAGAR will suitably follow up on this matter.

NAGAR wrote to the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM objecting to the underground pay-n-park at Patwardhan Park and Jhula Maidan. NAGAR raised a strong objection to these proposals, citing that this is a permanent compromise of permeability of these public open spaces. Further, it would temporarily compromise the accessibility of these existing and frequented public open spaces. We also stated that it was shocking that, on one hand, the government has deleted Public Parking Lots in buildings for which developers were awarded additional FSI for the purpose through the DCPR 2034, and on the other hand, such proposals are being given under existing public open spaces.

3. Development Plan:

A. The Development Plan and Development Control and Promotion Regulations

The Development Plan and Development Control and Promotion Regulations were notified on May 8, 2018 by the Government of Maharashtra (GoM), when documents ‘**DCPR2034**’, ‘**Schedule A**’ and ‘**Schedule B**’ were released. These comprised Excluded Parts which were substantial modifications made by the Government of Maharashtra and were therefore open to public suggestions and objections. NAGAR submitted its suggestions and objections to the Deputy Director, Town Planning, Greater Mumbai. NAGAR was then invited for a hearing on the same.

The Development Plan Layouts were similarly **notified with Excluded Parts** on July 5, 2018 (Island City), July 15 (Western Suburbs) and July 24 (Eastern Suburbs). As per a Corrigendum published by the GoM on June 22, 2018, the same were called for public suggestions and objections. NAGAR submitted its suggestions and objections in a letter dated August 3, 2018 to the Excluded Parts of the DP Sheets for Island City, Western Suburbs and Eastern Suburbs. NAGAR was then invited for a hearing on the same.

The officials at Deputy Director, Town Planning heard all the suggestions and objections given by NAGAR, which pertained to preservation of existing public open spaces and protection of natural areas from all forms of development, deletion of public parking lots, and such other issues observed in the Development Plan.

The Development Control and Promotion Regulations 2034 is now sanctioned and it was uploaded on November 13, 2018.

B. RTI applications filed & Appeal and Letter to Authorities

NAGAR sought information from the office of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM regarding the Errors in DP 2034 Sheets. The application was redirected to the Chief Engineer (DP), who did not respond in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, NAGAR filed a First Appeal. At the hearing, Mr. Hiren Daftardar, Deputy Chief Planner (Area Plan), MCGM informed that the required documents containing 'erroneous colour' are part of "Wardwise Recommendations of Planning Committee" and can be found on the MCGM DP web portal.

On December 27, 2018, Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) notified the Draft Proposals for development along the Eastern Waterfront (EWF) of Greater Mumbai, for which it is a Special Planning Authority (SPA), and invited suggestions and objections from the public for the same. NAGAR submitted its suggestions & objections which addresses some of the salient features of the proposal, including a proposal for a park through reclamation of 90 Ha and the reservation surrounding Sewri fort, and the regulations which govern the protection of Natural Areas.

4. Heritage:

A. Forts of Mumbai Project

To further its work on rejuvenation of the 8 Forts of Mumbai, post publication of the book "Forts of Mumbai – Abandoned Treasures", **NAGAR prepared a project report** titled "**Rejuvenation of the Forts of Mumbai: A Tribute to Our Rich and Varied Heritage**". We presented it to Dr. Tejas Garge, Director, the Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Bipin Chandra Negi, Superintending Archaeologist, Mumbai Circle, Archaeological Survey of India (Sion), Government of India. The objective of the report is to advocate the need for conservation of these protected monuments and rejuvenation of their sites as tourist areas.

NAGAR is in discussion with the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, to undertake rejuvenation work on forts at Worli and Sewri. NAGAR is currently working on a proposal for the surroundings of Worli and Sewri Fort.

B. World Heritage Project:

On 30th July 2018, the 'Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai', (WHS) consisting of 92 buildings, was inscribed as a UNESCO WHS under the 'Cultural Site' category. The proposal for the World Heritage inscription was endorsed by the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India and sent to UNESCO as India's nomination for this prestigious international award.

NAGAR has supported the next phase of this project by providing office space for the conservation architect appointed by the stakeholders. She will look into the compliance issues required by UNESCO and work on the coordination with all Authorities, namely Government of Maharashtra, MCGM, MHCC and the A Ward where the Site is situated.

In addition the following work is being undertaken:

- a) Coordinating the making a short film of the inscribed Site and the important buildings within it. This film will be shown at all relevant events and seminars and uploaded on appropriate social media sites and television. A well-

crafted film will not only benefit the city's heritage tourism but will create worldwide awareness of Mumbai's wonderful architectural history and most importantly, it will help preserve and protect this unique heritage for generations to come.

- b) A Draft Signage Plan for the inscribed site is being designed.

The UNESCO and ICOMOS Evaluation reports have strongly recommended an effective visitor management plan as one of the important prerequisites to upload the heritage tag of the Ensemble. A Signage Plan for the core Ensemble area has been drafted for the same. This plan suggests suitable locations for different types of signage boards – Information plaques, direction boards, WHS logo and Emblem boards, etc. Signage type, mounting type and the content of each of the boards has been designed and illustrated in the draft plan. These signage types and locations are suggested after conducting site visits and photographic documentation within the Ensemble area. The plan also recommends additional ideas for an inclusive approach to interpretation through signage boards.

- c) A compilation of the individually listed buildings (Grade I, II, IIA, and III) within the Ensembles has been prepared. Information was sought from Deputy Municipal Architect (DP) and Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee (MHCC), MCGM under RTI to get an update on the final status of this list. In response, it was stated that the heritage list has not been updated for the MCGM Ward 'A' since 2012 and all buildings listed in this list are deemed to be protected till notified otherwise.

- d) Information was sought under RTI with regard to the current status of the repair works at the Esplanade Mansion and about approvals and permissions granted by MHCC for renovation work undertaken at Sabalan (Army Restaurant), Esplanade Mansion. In response, the MHCC and MHADA stated that no such approval or permission has been granted. The application was also redirected to PWD by MHADA, who responded saying no such information is available with them. This issue is being followed up with the State Government as

Esplanade Mansion has been specifically mentioned by UNESCO in its inscription document.

- e) NAGAR has been vigilant about the ongoing restoration process of the Eros Cinema and is pursuing the MHCC to retain its Art Deco features.

To keep track of the work, NAGAR sought information under RTI from the office of the Assistant Municipal Commissioner, A ward for correspondence with owners, tenants / occupants of Eros cinema or any architect with reference to MCGM. In response, Designated Officer (Building & Factory), A Ward shared a letter written to Dy. Municipal Architect (Development Plan) Heritage, dated 24.09.2018, which stated that in a site inspection of Eros Cinema conducted on 11.09.2018, no work was found to be in progress and therefore no action was warranted at that stage. Further, it was suggested that officials from A Ward and MCGM conduct a joint site visit.

As a response to NAGAR's letter dated 06.06.2018 to the MHCC, expressing concern for the heritage value of Eros Cinema in the light of any potential proposals for its adaptive reuse, MHCC called NAGAR for a hearing to be held on October 11, 2018. NAGAR attended the said hearing and presented its views, and also shared a letter further to the previous one, which included the status of Eros Cinema as a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the recommendation given by UNESCO for its revival. NAGAR insisted that the Art Deco features on the façade as well as the interiors of the cinema be preserved. At the hearing conducted by the MHCC on October 11, 2018, NAGAR was asked to submit any documents indicating which Art Deco elements must be preserved. NAGAR submitted a letter consisting the same dated October 15, 2018, along with enclosed copies of excerpts and photographs from books – 'Bombay Art Deco Architecture: A Visual Journey (1930-53)', by Navin Ramani and 'Bombay Deco', by Sharada Dwivedi and Rahul Mehrotra. NAGAR also requested to view any proposal received by MHCC for Eros cinema.

NAGAR received a letter from MHCC, dated 23.10.2018, on October 29, 2018, regarding the acknowledgement of our submitted documents as well as our

presence at the hearing. They mentioned that a proposal has been sent to them for their approval as well. NAGAR sent a letter on October 30, 2018, reiterating its request to view this proposal. However, no response to this letter has been given by MHCC till date.

NAGAR sought information under RTI regarding any proposals for repairs / renovation / restoration of Eros cinema, Cumbatta building. The information, comprising drawings submitted to MHCC as well as a letter stating the approval for the same by MHCC, was collected on 07.03.2019. The proposal involves partial conversion of usage from theatre to retail. While the letter states that the Art Deco features will be preserved during this renovation, the drawings do not indicate the same. As a further step, NAGAR will write to the concerned authorities that the drawings do not appear to preserve all Art Deco elements within the cinema, as well as file applications under RTI to secure lease related documents of the building.

- f) A similar application was filed under RTI with the MHCC seeking information whether there have been any such proposals with reference to Regal Cinema. However, as per the response received, it was informed that no such proposal was available with the MHCC.

5. Eastern Waterfront:

NAGAR was invited for a hearing regarding the Notified Development Plan for the Eastern Waterfront, by the Mumbai Port Trust, Special Planning Authority. NAGAR reiterated the views expressed in its letter of suggestions and objections.

NAGAR had stressed upon the importance of ensuring that the land made available to the city must be used for public amenities, and especially public open spaces, as a severe lack of these is felt across the city. We objected to the proposal to reclaim 90 Ha of the sea for a park, due to the fact that reclamation could lead to ecological imbalance, and that public open spaces must be distributed across a layout and not be restricted to a corner. We also addressed the depiction of Sewri

Fort in the Proposed Land Use sheet, as the area immediately surrounding it has been reserved as 'Residential'.

6. Quality of Air:

A Focus Group Meeting (FGM) was held at NAGAR office to discuss the issue of air pollution. NAGAR plans to conduct a roundtable conference of concerned citizens to discuss strategies to start a dialogue with the authorities for abatement of air pollution and improving the ambient air quality. It was discussed that the issue of Construction & Demolition waste towards dust mitigation is a great concern especially as DP 2034 envisages a spurt in redevelopment and construction projects. NAGAR approached NEERI to understand its role in abating air pollution and its scope of work. NEERI works only on a projects assigned to them by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and the National Green Tribunal (NGT). It is a laboratory that conducts sample tests in areas which are to be assessed for pollution control and submits it to the concerned agency. On its own, it conducts seminars and awareness programs to educate people about ambient air quality and how to reduce air pollution. NAGAR plans to collaborate with NEERI.

NAGAR has also approached the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and sought information under RTI regarding the Greater Mumbai-specific air quality management plan & action plan, if any, chalked out by them under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for tackling air pollution in Greater Mumbai.

7. SRA matter:

NAGAR continues to address issues regarding encroachment on reserved public open spaces within the ambit of its WP 1152 of 2002. The layouts shared have been studied and scrutinized, and meetings have been held with developers as well as representatives from the SRA for approval or disapproval of the proposed projects.

NAGAR successfully recorded a digital database of all such cases so as to ascertain the number of reserved public open spaces that have been returned to the city through this exercise.

NAGAR received a letter from Slum Rehabilitation Authority, addressed to CitiSpace on February 18, 2019. This was regarding a request received by the SRA, from Mundara Developers, to develop a Slum Rehabilitation Scheme under the regulations stated by DCPR-2034, which permit developers to build for SRS on encumbered public open spaces, provided they return 35% of the same to the city. The letter sought response from CitiSpace regarding the same. After consulting with the lawyers, the response was sent to SRA, which stated that the development of the referred Slum Rehabilitation Scheme is required to be done as per the order given by the Hon'ble High Court, and all concerned parties are bound by the same. If modification to the order is sought, the developers would have to approach the High Court accordingly. It was also stated, that as per the interim order dated 31.07.2002 passed in WP 1152 of 2002, no SRS ought to be sanctioned/approved by SRA as is sought by the developers in this case.

8. Better Policing:

To encourage the citizens to comply with traffic rules, NAGAR posted messages and graphics on its social media platforms like Facebook and twitter. For instance, issues like parking and right of way to pedestrians.

9. Networking:

A. Connecting with People:

Volunteers from **TATA ProEngage** assisted NAGAR in **successfully promoting its programs through social media platforms**, like Facebook & Twitter. They promoted NAGAR's involvement in various policy issues and advocacy matters, esp. protection of public open spaces, demand for regulation of hawking zones, restoration of water bodies, conservation of water and so on. Also, they correlated NAGAR's activities with days & events celebrated nationally and globally. For instance, "International Day of Action for Rivers", "World Environment Day", etc.

NAGAR met with Mr. Chetan Sharma, who is working on a citizen-centric mobile application that connects citizens with each other and with the authorities to voice their concern for various civic issues like SWM, public open spaces, public parking,

and so on. The App uses Cooperative Housing Society as the basic unit of the network to advocate on civic issues.

B. Exploring issues:

a) Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended a lecture on “Ocean Pollution – Science and Solutions” delivered by Dr. Jenna Jambeck, organised by ORF on September 19, 2018. She spoke about a mobile application that tracks marine debris and keeps the oceans clean. The name itself is “Marine Debris Tracker”. It tracks and classifies the debris to finest particles like microplastics, microfibers and cleansing beads. She highlighted that the context and culture of Solid Waste Management plays a key role in addressing / handling the concerns and threats faced by marine environment. She also stated that governments can take a small step to begin with. Tap the restaurants and eateries nearby or on the beaches and educate the people not to litter. For instance, not to throw straws on the shore or in the sea.

She also mentioned that, in the Group of Seven's (G7), the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom pledged to combat ocean pollution through a G7 Ocean Plastics Charter. The United States and Japan declined to put their names on the resolution. The charter outlines a "resource-efficient lifecycle management approach to plastics in the economy," which includes working toward making all plastics recyclable by 2030, reducing single-use plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic. It also pledges to build out recycling infrastructure, and innovate around more sustainable technologies.

Dr. Jambeck talked about the UN's Clean Seas Campaign as well. UN Environment launched Clean Seas (#CleanSeas on social media) in February 2017, with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution. Over the next five years, it will address the root-cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic. The campaign contributes to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, a voluntary

open-ended partnership for international agencies, governments, businesses, academia, local authorities and non-governmental organizations hosted by UN Environment.

- b) Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director and Ms. Devashree Vyas, Programme Coordinator, NAGAR attended a workshop on “Creative Attractive Public Spaces” organised by Netherlands Consulate General Mumbai at Kitab Mahal on November 27, 2018. The workshop comprised three segments, oriented around the importance of public spaces and designing for better public spaces. The first session was a panel discussion between artists and designers from Mumbai – Nitin Killawala, Brinda Miller, Arzan Khambatta and P K Das, as well as discussion with the audience, mainly around the issues faced in creating designed public spaces within Mumbai. The second session involved presentations by three designers from the Netherlands, of their varied work for public spaces in different areas. The third segment involved B2B Meetings with these designers, where NAGAR learned more about their work and established contact with two of the designers – Noa Haim and Nadine Roos.
- c) Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended an event “*Badalta Maharashtra*” conducted by the Marathi daily *Loksatta* held on 19-20 December, 2018. It addressed issues like pollution in general, plastic waste, solid waste management and governance. NAGAR is deeply involved in these issues. NAGAR connected with Mr. Sanjay Bhuskute, MPCB spokesperson and Mr. Atul Deolgaonkar, Environment expert.
- d) Ms. Meher Razaat & Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, NAGAR Trustees and Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended an event held on “Pseudo Stifling: Mumbai & Mumbaikars: Championing Smart & Liveable Infra Solutions” conducted by Mumbai First on February 28, 2019. It addressed the issues of air pollution, policy gaps in management of Construction & Demolition waste and infra solutions to reduce & reuse C&D waste. NAGAR interacted with Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Satinder Kaur of NEERI and Ms. Prachi Nimkar of

Ecosupport Pvt. Ltd. Some interesting models to curb air pollution in an effective manner were discussed.

- e) Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director and Ms. Devashree Vyas, Programme Coordinator, NAGAR attended the Sandhya Savant Memorial Lecture by Prof. Narayani Gupta on “When Architecture meets Archaeology” held on March 5, 2019 at Sir J. J. College of Architecture. She spoke about the importance of architectural conservation and the transformation of conservation advocacy over the years, comparing dilution of existing laws and participation of the public in this sphere. She cited numerous examples within the country, particularly ones based in New Delhi.